

# VRIS UPDATE

## **Eligibility On the Basis of a Hearing Loss Effective March 11, 2010 Number 254**

### **SUMMARY OF UPDATES**

A decision has been made to require that a hearing impairment be verified by a medical report from a physician, preferably an ENT, in those situations where the impairment was not verified

- as an SSDI beneficiary or SSI recipient on the basis of a hearing impairment, or
- by observation (*Specialist observed the individual using a hearing aid, assistive listening device, sign language, lip reading, or other communication device or mode*).

The use of just an audiology report without SSA verification or observation by a specialist does not meet the federal requirement that qualified personnel in accordance with State licensure laws diagnose impairments. Audiologists are not licensed in Nebraska to diagnose.

### **VRIS POSTING**

The chapter is posted to VRIS: Program Manual: Employment Program: Front End Process Overview: [Eligibility on the Basis of Hearing Loss](#).

### **TEAM COMMUNICATION**

Since this is a significant change, this update should be discussed at a team meeting.

### **LEADERSHIP CONTACT**

**Pat Bracken, Program Director**  
**pat.bracken@nebraska.gov**  
**402.471.6320**